

ANADROMOUS WATERS CATALOG/ATLAS
CORRECTION FORM

CORRECTION TO:

ATLAS

X

CATALOG

X

REGION:

SOUTHEAST

MAP:

CRAIG A-1

WATERWAY NUMBER:

102-30-10770

102-30-10770-0010

DESCRIBE CHANGE(S):

SHORTEN STREAM 102-30-10770

DELETE LAKE PER ATTACHED INFORMATION

FROM AGASCUS MINERALS & U.S.F.S. ADD

BARRIER SYMBOL "60' FALLS" USE "4" 110

METERS OF HABITAT ABOVE HIGH TIDE LINE.

CHANGE REQUESTED BY :

EL Wain

1/8/98

DATE

DRAFTED/DIGITIZED BY:

OB

4/2/98

DATE

REVISION CODE:

D-1, D-2, E-9

ALASKA DEPT. OF
FISH & GAME

NOMINATION NUMBER:

98 264

JAN 07 1998

REGION II
HABITAT AND RESTORATION
DIVISION

** ATTACH THIS FORM TO EXISTING NOMINATION FORM IN THE FILE **

AMC
ABACUS MINERALS CORPORATION**ABACUS MINERALS CORPORATION**

Suite 611- 675 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC V6B 1N2 Canada
Telephone: (604) 682-0301 Facsimile: (604) 682-0307 Toll Free: 1-800-811-5388
email: info@abacusminerals.com website: www.abacusminerals.com

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

Date	<u>SEPT 4</u>	, 1997	Number of pages (including cover)	<u>2</u>
To:	<u>WAYNE DOLEZAL</u>			
Company:	<u>ALASKA FISH & GAME</u>		Fax no.:	<u>907 267 2464</u>
From:	<u>MIKE STAMMERS</u> , Abacus Minerals Corporation			

RE/message FOLLOW-UP TO OUR TELEPHONE CONVERSATION - AUGUST 21/97

RE NIBLACK ANCHORAGE, PRINCE OF WALES IS. / ANADROMOUS STREAM
CATALOGUE - NEED FOR CORRECTION.

#102-30-10770 MYRTLE CR & LAKE A REPORT DATED BY SMOUT & HANNON
DATED 7-14-94 AND OUR OWN SURVEY BY CONSULTANT INDICATES CATALOGUE
IS INCORRECT. OUR SURVEYED DATA (SEPT 3-1997) SHOWS BARRIER FALLS
100 m UPSTREAM FROM MOUTH AND FALLS MEASURED AS 60' HIGH.

#102-30-10750 CAMP CREEK, SALMON RUN ONLY ABOUT 30m
UPSTREAM FROM MOUTH (NOT TO THE 800' ELEVATION AS IMPLIED ON
MAP). IN Tongass Land Management Plan this area has been chosen as a "WILD RIVER".

→ ALSO COULD YOU PLEASE TELL US WHY NIBLACK LAKE AND STREAMS
HAS BEEN LISTED AS ONE OF THE 65 MOST IMPORTANT WATERSHEDS
IN SOUTHEAST ALASKA FOR ITS FISHERIES VALUES. WHERE IS THIS
REFERENCED?

Please contact sender at (604) 682-0301 if all pages are not received.

Looking forward to talking to you next week.

Regards Mike Stammers

/2

7-13-94

Kugel Creek #102-30-10650 Nourse, Johnson, Kuntzsch, Hannon

Upstream from saltwater the substrate was primarily cobble and boulder in an LC1 channel with about a 1.5% gradient. There is a 30' waterfall at about 1/4 mile upstream in a slightly higher gradient section. Above the falls gradient flattens again to an LC1 channel. A few hundred feet above the falls there is a short reach (-300') of FP4 channel. Fry, probably cutthroat or rainbow, were seen in this floodplain area. About 300' downstream from the lake there is a 200' vertical falls. There is no easy route up to the lake but the west side seemed to be the best. The lake is about 3/4 mile upstream from saltwater at an elevation of 397'.

There were a lot of newts and eggs in the lake. Rainbows were also abundant in the lake. Fishing with a spinner around cover produced a strike on about every other cast. We caught about 10 rainbows up to 12". The lake was stocked with 15,000 rainbow trout fry in 1967 from Fire Lake Hatchery in Winthrop. Before this (1966) the lake was reported to have no fish. Kugel Creek is catalogued for steelhead as well. The stocking could have had some effect on the steelhead run here.

There is a lot of wood in the lake at the mouth. The shoreline is mostly steep and bedrock dominated. It looks to be difficult to walk around the lake in most spots. Sponges are present in the lake.

Water Sample at mouth of stream: 134 mV
26.6 uS
pH = 8.3

7-14-94

Myrtle Creek and Lake #102-30-10770 Smout and Hannon

The stream runs at a 5% gradient up from the mouth in an MC1 channel with boulder substrate. The first barrier falls is at about 300m upstream from the mouth. (a correction to the anadromous catalogue needs to be made, it's presently catalogued for coho and pink up into the lake) The falls is about 30' high. Above the falls the gradient steepens slightly and the stream becomes more incised with some cascading falls. It is not possible to walk in the stream above the falls. The stream had a good high flow after six days with no rain. Myrtle Lake lies 1/4 mile upstream from saltwater at an elevation of 92'. The water was 16.5 C at 9:30 am on a sunny day. The lake shoreline consists mostly of bedrock and drops off very steeply, nearly vertically, in the main lake basin. The inflow to the lake sounded like it comes in from the northeast from Niblack Lake (no inflow is shown on the topo map and it's difficult to tell from the photo subsurface??). There is little or no spawning habitat available from Myrtle Lake.

We made some casts in the lake and had a 6" cutthroat and 2" sculpin follow the lure. Sponges are present in the lake. Near the lake outlet there is a spike driven into the bedrock with a 1" steel cable across the lake outlet and tied to a log. There is also what looks like the side of a small building under water plus some cut logs. There may be mining

NIBLACK PROJECT

MYRTLE CREEK FISHERIES HABITAT RECONNAISSANCE

Background

The Niblack Project is an advanced mining exploration project located on Prince of Wales Island, Alaska. Myrtle Creek drains the area north of the property, discharging to Niblack Anchorage. The lower section of Myrtle Creek is primarily bedrock-controlled within a narrow canyon. Average wetted width is approximately 5 meters. There are no tributaries or side channels in this section, and large woody debris is common. There are numerous boulders in the creek channel and repeating sections of small cascades.

There is conflicting information on Myrtle Creek in the existing files, especially concerning the location and height of a known waterfall in the lower section of the creek. A ground reconnaissance was conducted on September 4, 1997 to provide quantitative information regarding the location and height of the falls, as well as to better understand the amount of useable fish habitat in the Myrtle Creek drainage.

Methods

It was assumed that fish habitat in the creek begins at the high tide line at the mouth of Myrtle Creek (Photo 1¹). Based on shoreline vegetation boundaries, the high tide area coincides with a staff gauge installation (Photo 2) used in hydrological studies for the Niblack Baseline Environmental Program. At this location, a hip chain was tied off to the gauge and reset to '0' meters and a Pretel *Alti Plus 2* precision altimeter was calibrated and set to '0' feet. The eastern bank was then walked, as close to the channel as topography allowed, to visually assess the fisheries habitat potential.

Observations

Weather conditions during the survey consisted of near constant drizzle but were stable during the period of the survey. The day prior to the survey had experienced heavy rains, which increased flows in the creeks. The water was generally very turbulent and aerated, which restricted in-stream visibility to margin areas and sheltered pools. The increased flows also prohibited wading in the creeks except for limited, sheltered areas. At the time of the survey, salmon spawning was occurring, and numerous spawned-out corpses were observed on the banks in the lower sections of the creek.

At 40 meters upstream², a channel-wide falls, estimated at 1.6m high was observed. It discharged to a pool, estimated at approximately 80% of channel width, or about 4m. This falls is not considered a barrier to fish passage. The subsequent 70 meters consisted of sequences of small cascades and a high percentage of in-stream boulders, resulting in fairly constant "white-water".

¹ Photo results are disappointing; aerial photos would provide a much better physical illustration.

² Because of the vegetation obstacles along the survey route, the distances on the hip chain are likely over-estimates.

*Hallam Knight Piésold Ltd.**Niblack Project - Myrtle Creek Fisheries Habitat Survey*

At 110 meters the base of the falls was reached (Photos 3, 4). The falls discharge to a large pool, where an adult salmonid was observed holding. Some very large logs were located in the main falls channel. Because the weather had changed since the beginning of the survey, the altimeter was re calibrated to '0' feet, and the bank was hiked to the top of the falls. The altimeter produced a reading of 60 feet, and as the resolution of the instrument is 10 feet, the height of the falls is between 50 and 70 feet.

The channel widens prior to the top of the falls, and forms a large pool. Visibility was excellent, and fish were not observed in the pool. The water then drops almost vertically for approximately 10 feet to a shelf in the channel, and then from this plunge down the main waterfall channel, with no breaks or apparent change in slope. The gradient of the main waterfall section was visually estimated at 55 to 60°.

Conclusions

Due to its length, grade and velocity, this waterfall is an absolute barrier to anadromous species migration, especially during the flows encountered during the fall spawning period. The usable habitat for salmon in Myrtle Creek is therefore restricted to the lower 110 meters.

Because of the limited visibility in the water at these flows, it is not known how much of this 110 meter section of creek contains suitable spawning habitat (or other habitat types) or what the quality of the habitat is. However, the nature of a bedrock controlled system and the observed high proportion of boulder-sized substrate, suggest that neither the quality nor the quantity could be considered high. This can be confirmed through a simple fisheries habitat assessment during periods of lower flow.

In a regional salmon habitat context, this drainage must be rated as relatively insignificant.

AMC
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FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

Date	JAN 23	1998	Number of pages (including cover)	3
To:	ED WEISS			
Company:	ADFG		Fax no.:	907 267 2464
M. STAMMERS				
From:	Steve Pedersen , Abacus Minerals Corporation			

RE/message

MYRTLE CK. / NIBLACK AREA

Ed

I will mail the original
plus 3 pages of photos later
today or early next week.

Thanks for following up on this
matter.

Regards

Mike

ALASKA DEPT. OF
FISH & GAME

JAN 23 1998

REGION II
HABITAT AND RESTORATION
DIVISION

Please contact sender at (604) 682-0301 if all pages are not received.

Weiss, Ed

From: Weiss, Ed
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 1998 8:40 AM
To: Durst, James D.
Subject: ERROR

Now see this is what comes of doing half ass work late at night. Disregard the appropriate portions of my previous message.

I found the nomination. It is NOT Niblack Lake and associated stream. It's Myrtle Creek and Lake 102-30-10770 & 0010. The next drainage over.

USFS report survey by Smout and Hannon note 30' falls 300 meters upstream.

Abascus Minerals says their consultant observed a 60' falls 100 meters upstream.

Let me know what you think.

Ed Weiss
Habitat Biologist
ADF&G Habitat & Restoration Division
edw@fishgame.state.ak.us

PER J. DURST 1/22/98 PHONE.
TALKED W/ JOHN HANNON, NO MEASURING DEVICES
HOWEVER, SO USFS MEASUREMENTS WERE
ESTIMATES.

Weiss, Ed

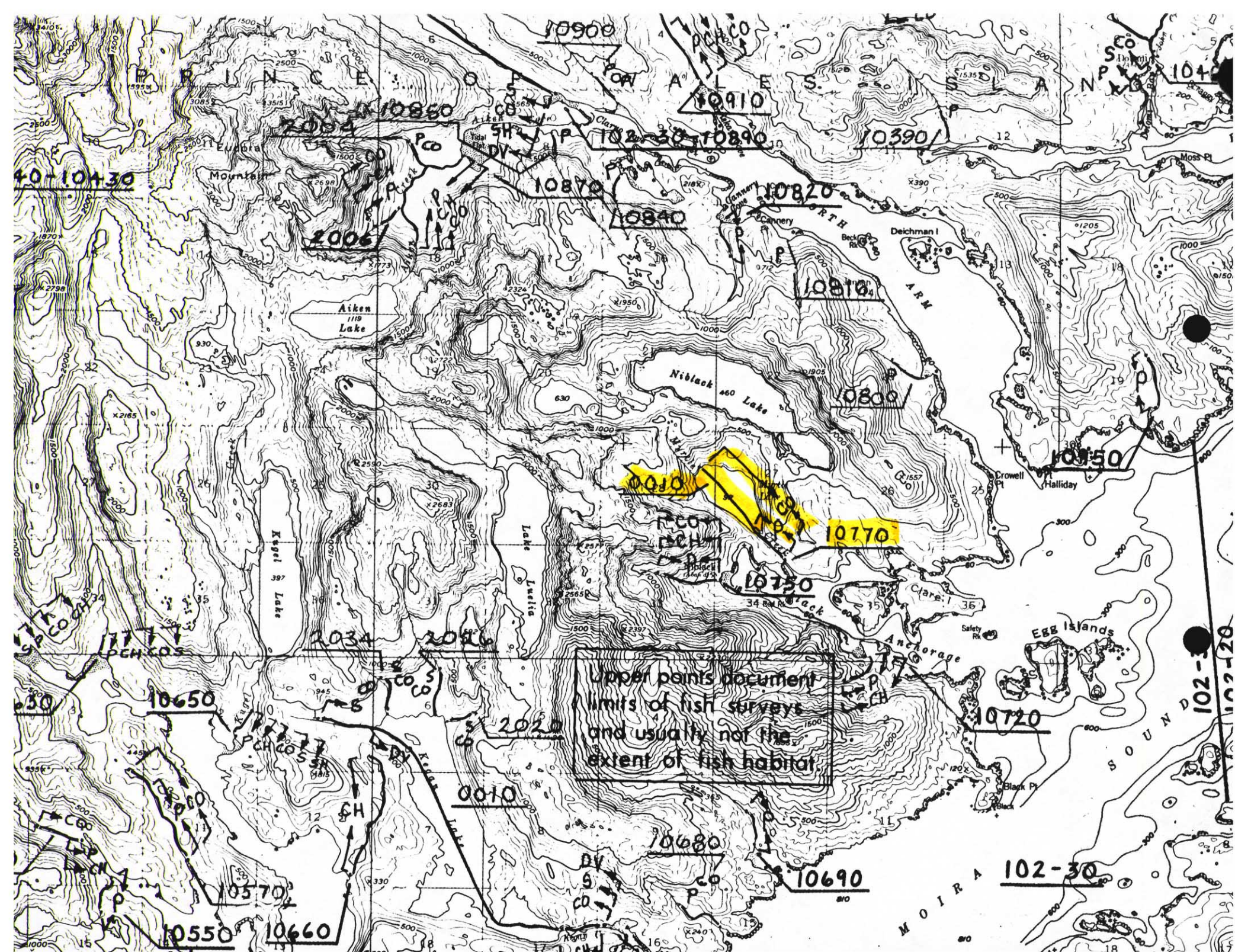
From: Weiss, Ed
Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 1998 7:14 PM
To: Durst, James D.
Subject: Niblak & Wolf Creeks

Just got a chance to listen to your message. Will try email at this late time and follow up with call tomorrow.

Have a nomination to shorten (all but remove) Niblak Lake and stream from AWC. Based on two sources, USFS and mining company (can't think of name and can't find nomination under this pile). Any way request came from mining company and referenced USFS report and their own consultants observations. Problem the USFS noted the barrier falls at a different location than the consultant, also falls height was different. One was 60 feet vs 30 feet high and one was 300 vs 600 upstream. I'm looking for what we believe to be the truth. I think it needs to be shortened up the question is to where. I'll see if I can find the specifics and give you a call tomorrow.

Also I have an email from some time ago where you indicated you would hold the Wolf Creek nomination (shortening) till the end of the season and add additional field observations. Did you ever get a chance to look at it?

Ed Weiss
Habitat Biologist
ADF&G Habitat & Restoration Division
edw@fishgame.state.ak.us



FEB 03 1998

NIBLACK PROJECT

MYRTLE CREEK FISHERIES HABITAT RECONNAISSANCE

REGION II
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Michael A. Stammers, P.Geo.
Director
Lands and Environment

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ABACUS MINING CORP. - NIBLACK PROJECT
Myrtle Creek Falls Reconnaissance



Photo 1: Mouth of Myrtle Creek. Discharge is to left of photo.
Staff gauge visible near right bank (see arrow)



Photo 2: Instream staff gauge mount is near high tide mark; '0' on chainage.
Note salmon "morts" on bank



ABACUS MINING CORP. - NIBLACK PROJECT
Myrtle Creek Falls Reconnaissance

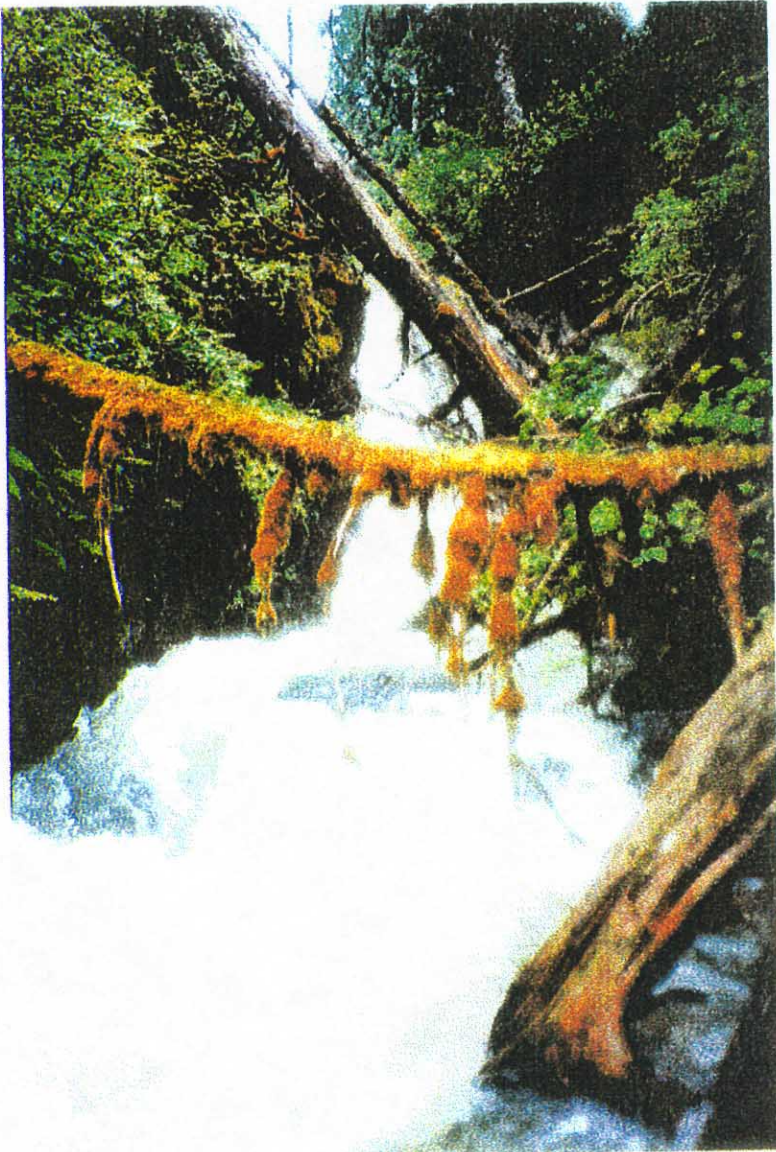


Photo 3: Base of falls



Photo 4: Base of falls from closer vantage





Photo 5: "Panorama" of mid-falls section

ABACUS MINING CORP - NIBLACK PROJECT
Myrtle Creek Falls Reconnaissance



Photo 6: Top end of falls. First plunge near top of large woody debris

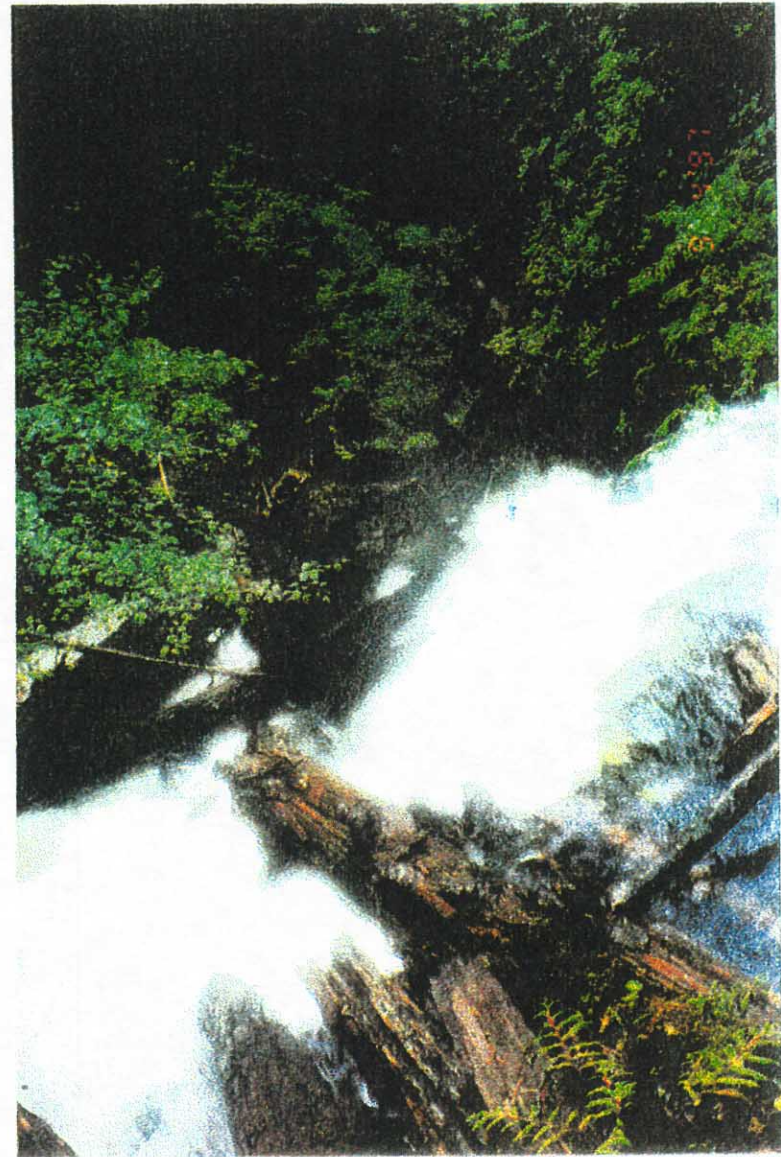


Photo 7: Top of falls looking down into first plunge

